communities in ACTION

Counting People, Reaching People–(Opening Up Poverty Neighborhoods)

COUNTING PEOPLE, REACHING PEOPLE..... 3
CAP NEWSLINE.....11
Head Start.....11
Health Services.....13
Upward Bound.....16
CITIZENS' VOLUNTEER CORPS.....18
SWAFCA!.....21
HARLEM'S "ARCH".....28
CORRESPONDENCE.....31

communities in ACTION

VOL. 3 FEBRUARY-MARCH 1968

a periodical account of the War on Poverty, published by the Community Action Program of the Office of Economic Opportunity.

RALPH MATTHEWS, JR.
Editor
PATRICIA ALLOTT
Graphics

Cover photo by Declan Haun

Editorial material herein may be reprinted in part or entirely. Individual permission to publish is not necessary.

Address correspondence to: Communities In Action, Office of Economic Opportunity, Public Affairs, Washington, D.C. 20506
James D. Williams, chief, Community Action section of Public Affairs Department, OEO

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of Bureau of the Budget, May 15, 1967.

counting people, reaching people

The 1970 Census demands the fullest inter-agency cooperation. Here is a two-part section on (A) how to improve population surveys (B) how to reach the uncountables. Both have great meaning in CAA planning for the future.

six million missing

(A) How the Census Bureau and OEO can help each other find that elusive 3 per cent of the poor

If the Census Bureau misses as large a percentage of people in 1970 as it did in the 1960 Census, more than six million people may be uncounted. Who are these people? We know that they are men more often than women and that the percentage of Negroes among the uncounted is relatively large. Only about one out of ten counted Americans is nonwhite but nearly four out of ten of the uncounted Americans are nonwhite. Although the term "nonwhite" includes Orientals, Indians, and other groups, most nonwhites in the United States are Negroes.

There is not much else known as surely as the facts just mentioned indicate, about who is missing in censuses. There is some evidence that the missed persons are more likely to be lodgers and roomers than heads of households or their families; they are more likely to be poor people than rich; uneducated than well educated; and they are probably more likely to be city than country people.

The next question is whether it makes any difference if the Census counts everyone? After all, even six million uncounted people would amount only to about 3 percent (or three people out of every hundred) of the expected total United States population, amounting to more than 200 million in 1970. A record of 97 percent success is not bad. However, when we look at that rate of 3 percent for the country as a whole, we see that it stands for missing about 8 percent of the nonwhite women and 12 percent of the nonwhite men. Going further than that, it appears as if between 15 and 20 percent—as much as one out of five nonwhite men—aged 20 to 40 were omitted from the 1960 Census count. If that is not serious enough to alarm you, you might consider that although 80 percent of the young adult nonwhite men are enumerated in the U.S. Census, the known facts do not indicate whether this 80 percent is across the country or whether there may be communities in which smaller percentages of them were counted.

These, of course, would be counterbalanced by other communities where the count is more complete. Reasoning like this leads to an understanding that large numbers of people may have been missed in your community.

Does that matter? It certainly does when you realize that congressional apportionment is based on Census counts. The number of congressmen and state legislators from an area is set on the basis of the count of people in it. If a large percentage of people in a neighborhood are not reported in the census, it could lose national and state representation and, thereby, also lose significant political *power*.

Not only is congressional representation based on population count but many community services are also distributed on that basis—tax monies for schools, parks, playgrounds, and other public services. Then there are voter registration drives, community action programs, manpower training, employment assistance, and Model Cities programs. All these are programs designed to improve the democratic processes or the welfare of citizens, and all require complete counts of the groups to which they are addressed.

Recently, someone figured that communities receive about $38 a person in services and direct government payments for every person counted in a census. The unhappy conclusion appears to be that the inner city communities in which we believe the census is least complete are just the areas which can least afford to lose the political power, money, and services which are dependent on complete census counts.

Philadelphia Test

The Census Bureau has been looking for ways to improve the count in communities where it is believed that many people have been missed. It has recently conducted a test in North Philadelphia which has many new features for the Census Bureau, though they may sound very familiar to community action workers.

Some of these were tried first or learned during the conduct of two community action agency sample surveys conducted for the Office of Economic Opportunity. In the first place, the census takers were recruited through a local community action agency first and then through the conventional employment service.

Second, preference was given to those who lived in or near to the area in which the test census was being conducted. The people who were employed tended to be block captains, home and school mothers, and other community activists. Some of the old stringent requirements that census takers be high school graduates, that they work an eight-hour day, and that they pass an academic test were dropped.

Although the job applicants were tested, test questions were more about the work itself than about general education and information. The staff was trained longer; it was better supervised in smaller groups; and when work started in the blocks which were considered difficult or dangerous, census takers went out in teams rather than separately.

Although the results of the Philadelphia Test have not yet come in, everyone who has observed it reported that a fine group of census takers were working hard with high spirit. Yet, observers believe that the same kinds of people the census has been missing are not being counted in Philadelphia. Because of that, a group of Census officials went to Philadelphia to ask these census takers whether *they* thought they were counting all the people and, if they did not, what they believed were the reasons. It was a frank and informal session in which a number of census takers described situations where they knew people were not being reported, and others spoke about their attempts to overcome such under-reporting. Finally, one burst out:

> "How can we convince them? Your home is at stake. You are living comfortable the first time in your life. You are going to hold onto that (PAUSE). They might like you and give you more information than others, but they are not gonna tell and risk losing their home."

That census taker was working in a public housing project where tenants had to register the number of persons in their household and were subject to eviction if authorities found more than the registered number. But after she spoke, it became clear that many people outside of public housing were afraid to report everyone in their household.

For example, there are places where landlords don't want children, and one enumerator said that a woman she interviewed hid her children in the closet when anyone knocked on the door. Others told of scheming required to pay high rents which involved having a number of people eligible for welfare in one household. Welfare payments would be cut if it became known how many recipients lived together.

Still other people who had lodgers in their homes were violating housing codes because they didn't have enough bathrooms or some other required facility. Consequently, they did not report their lodgers. Others were trying to escape creditors and a few were engaged in activities they don't want the police to know about. There is little point in going on with this list because all of you who have worked in the inner city could make up the same or a longer one. None of this will be surprising to you. As a matter of fact, our Philadelphia census takers said they were surprised to find that most people were truthful and gave complete information even when it might be harmful.

Lessons of Philadelphia

We believe that some important lessons were learned in the Philadelphia Test. First, it was possible to recruit in the North Philadelphia neighborhood itself and find excellent census takers, well disciplined, conscientious workers with close ties to the community who stayed on the job 'til they finished.

Second, what we did was not enough to solve the problem of the undercount. There were still some people who did not have confidence in census taking and were unwilling or afraid to report all of their household members. Since the Bureau of the Census has no opportunity to meet people except when it is interviewing them, that means we must find other groups which do have continuing positive contacts to be spokesmen and do a community education job for us.

More About the Importance of the Census

In order to gain endorsement of its work, the Census Bureau must demonstrate that it can help and cannot hurt people. Some of the ways in which the census can help have already been described. These are ways in which the census can help communities and programs, and later we will try to show that in some cases the census can also help individual people.

Now, however, we would like to explain why being enumerated in a census cannot hurt anyone. Censuses have been taken in the United States since 1790. As a matter of fact, George Washington complained about that first census. He said that he believed there were a lot more people in the country than the not quite four million which the census indicated would be counted, but through "scruples," "fears," "indolence," and "negligence" he expected that the official returns would be lower than the "real numbers" of the population. Thus, even from the beginning there was concern that the census, which should, might not count everyone.

From the beginning, also, the Census records were considered confidential. Confidential means that no one outside the government or in other government agencies may see the Census returns. Thus, when modern census forms say, "Answers to the census questions are required by law (Title 13 U. S. Code). By the same law, the information you furnish is CONFIDENTIAL. It may be seen *only* by *sworn census employees* and may be used only for statistical purposes," there is more than a 170 year precedent for that statement.

This precedent has been maintained by courts of law

in the face of attempts to gain access to Census records both by private and government agencies. Furthermore, every enumerator who works for the Census Bureau must be a sworn agent. The oath he takes prevents him from showing census returns to anyone, and he is warned not even to show census forms or talk about them to members of his own family.

Information people give to the Census is used in one way only. It is combined with information about others into statistical tables.

We have been concerned about why its record and the guarantee of confidentiality by the Census Bureau may not be understood or believed. At census taking time there has always been a great deal of publicity in newspapers, on radio and television, and on posters. Some of the publicity has stressed confidentiality, but we know that many people do not pay attention to the public media and such messages do not reach them. Another simple explanation may be that the term itself has a suspicious ring to a person who knows about confidence men but never heard about the real meaning of confidentiality as described here. Another reason why the guarantee of confidentiality may not be convincing may come from a point of view toward the government of the United States and society in general. Many years ago, poor country people used to talk about President Roosevelt as if he were the government, and when they would talk about the government they would say, "The government, he . . ." They could not distinguish between one arm of the government such as the Bureau of the Census and another one like the Selective Service Agency or the International Revenue Department.

Then and since, there have been people who could not see or believe that there were differencs between the local and federal government or between the government and business or some powerful person in the community. To such persons, giving information to one person who is filling an official-looking form is the same as giving it to everyone. Giving information to the census would mean that the welfare department or the police department or the landlord or the creditor or some other group or person would have access to it. These peoples' fears and suspicions are probably fostered by the fact that the kinds of information collected by the census are the same as those requested by others.

For example, both census and public housing authority forms call for reports of how many people there are living together in a house or apartment. In the case of the public housing authority, the information is used to make decisions about the family—shall it be given living quarters?; how large should they be?; what rent should be charged?; and so on.

This is not possible in the case of the census, but fear is so great that people act as if it were.

One way to dramatize the difference between census taking and other information gathering is to use what we call the Census Record Search as an example. This is a service of the Census Bureau which has been particularly useful for older people whose births were not registered and who, on reaching Social Security retirement age, can use past Census records in place of a birth certificate as proof of their age. It has also been used a great deal recently by people who were applying for Medicare. Record Search Service can also provide proof of citizenship, of residence, of marriage, or of some other important fact.

The point is that, as long as he is alive, *only* the individual himself or his own agent can obtain census information about him. After he dies, a designated descendent may obtain information if he is certified. But neither school, police, the FBI, tax, housing, or other officials, employers, neighbors, associates, nor anyone else could ever obtain such information. In short, no individual or family could be hurt by giving information to the census and some might be helped by having an official record they might want to use sometime.

Summary

We know the census count has not been complete and that it has been particularly deficient in the very groups of people for whom it is most important to be

counted. We have some hunches about why that is so and many of them relate to the kinds of fears which could be laid to rest if the truth were known.

The truth is that being enumerated in a census cannot harm anyone.

Although the Census Record Search Service can help some individuals (816,809 used it in 1966), the real values of cooperating in a census are like those of voting in an election. Where group or community pride exists or where hope for community betterment lives, these values can easily be explained and understood. Where there is no sense of community it may be that the values of a census cannot be seen, but at least the fears and anxieties about being hurt by the census can be ended. They cannot be ended by the Census Bureau itself. It takes people like you who have won confidence through continuing positive contact—neighborhood workers, home and school aides, block captains, precinct workers, and other such people.

What the Census Bureau needs most will not be hard nor take much time. Mostly, it needs your understanding and your endorsement. Add to that the kind of community education job which fits in well with many of your other activities in which you help people distinguish between the helpful and harmful forces in society.

Lastly, there is a favor you can do for the Census Bureau. It is to send us your reactions to this article. Although in some places we have written as if we understood **why** people are not being counted in the census, we are really writing about hunches and guesses. You may have better ideas or deeper understanding. Until we really understand what prevents people from reporting fully, we will not be able to improve the count.

Also, if you have any questions about any part of census taking, please ask about it. We have tried to give you some facts which might interest you but if, for example, you are curious about why a particular question is asked in the census or what uses are made of the statistics in the census tables or how the Census Bureau can tell when people are missed or any other question, please write us in Room 3254, Statistical Research Division, U.S. Census Bureau, Washington, D.C.

DONNIE ROTHWELL
Statistical Research Division
U.S. Census Bureau

Communications with the Inner City

(B) To count them, you must reach them. Techniques and media abound if you know what you are doing.

One of the most difficult and frustrating tasks to face Community Action Agencies is that of establishing communication with the people who inhabit the inner cores of the cities—or to use a more descriptive and precise term—the black ghettos.

Within these areas, and particularly among those most alienated from the total society, the same communication techniques that work so well outside the invisible, but nevertheless real walls of the ghetto, falter and flounder as they collide with the sharp edges of another world. An attractive billboard showing a family vacationing in Florida makes sense to a father accustomed to thinking in middle class concepts and conceivably can motivate him to work even more diligently to increase the possibility of being able to afford such a vacation. On a father in the ghetto, however, the message is wasted. It is so foreign to the framework in which he functions, in which just keeping his family from coming apart at the seams is a major task, that he can make no identification between the reality of his own life, and the pretty picture of a life he knows he will never know. Language is different in the ghetto, life styles are different, thought patterns are different and what adds up to four in the outer world, may add up to zero in the inner city.

Even when these factors are recognized and communication programs are tailored to have maximum impact in ghetto communities, the program must still overcome additional barriers created by the reluctance of people who live in these areas to engage in communication with the outside world.

This attitude may stem from apathy induced and deepened by the effects of poverty and discrimination or from a pervasive feeling of inferiority that creates a

"plantation" mentality that renders its victims psychologically unable to engage in anything more than surface communication with those outside their own circle. At the other end of the scale the barrier may be represented by an aggressive hostile attitude toward the outside world which produces a rejection of anything this segment of society has to offer. It is literally true that no one who has not lived in the ghetto can understand fully the subtle nuances of ghetto life, but it is also true that an outsider can establish at least a working understanding of the hows and the whys of this life by accepting that what is—is—and not what it should ideally be.

One fact that must be accepted is that almost every ghetto resident has gone through at least one unpleasant experience with the outside world that has indicated to him that he is regarded as "different". The process of learning that he is different begins early for a Negro child. As Charles E. Silberman writes in his "Crisis in Black and White"—Negro children learn soon enough—from their father's menial job, or lack of it, from his mixture of fear and deference and hate of 'the man'—that the world is white and they are black."

The learning process does not stop with the first lesson, it continues and the repetition does nothing to increase the willingness or anxiety of an individual, so marked, to engage in communications with the source, or what he conceives of, as the source, of the unpleasantness. Even a child will not thrust his hand in a fire twice, and the ghetto resident is no less wise than a child. If the price of minimizing the possibility of further pain is withdrawal, either by a dulling of the senses or by withdrawal, the ghetto dweller does not see the cost as too high. The result is the paradox of the slums—those whose needs are the greatest are the most difficult for the outside world to reach—for the distance that divides the two is enormous.

Outsiders, no matter how deep their committment to the improvement of life in the slums, or sincere their concern over the welfare of its residents, are going to face resistance when they attempt to penetrate the barriers the insiders have thrown up against the outsiders. There is no such thing as going into an area saying—"Here I am, ready to help you poor people"—and receiving immediate acceptance. The game in the ghetto is simply not played that way.

However, to accept the difficulties involved in communicating with the hardcore inner city poor as insurmountable and therefore unsolvable, is to admit a defeat that no agency, with any hope of accomplishing constructive actions in the inner city, can afford. No matter how worthy a program, no matter how much potential it has for accomplishing good, the inner city is not going to respond until an effort is made to reach it. These efforts must be grounded in reality, taking into account that it is not suburbia that is being dealt with, but a part of the city that has its own styles of life, its own mores, its own heroes, its own problems.

Even basic concepts are different, as Detroit's community action agency illustrated when it published a list of what the same concept means to the middle class and the poor.

CONCEPTS	ACCEPTED VIEW	ANOTHER VIEW
Society	The pattern one conforms to in the interests of security and being "popular"	"The Man"—an enemy to be resisted and suspected
The Future	A rosy horizon	Nonexistent. So live each moment fully
Liquor	Sociability, cocktail parties	A means to welcome oblivion
Education	The road to better things for one's children and oneself	An obstacle course to be surmounted until the children can go to work
Authority (courts, police)	Security—to be taken for granted,	Something hated, to be avoided
Ideal Goal	Money, property, to be accepted by the successful	"Coolness"; to "make out" without attracting attention of the authorities
"The Street"	A path for the auto	A meeting place, an escape from a crowded home
Joining a Church or other religious institution	A step necessary for social acceptance	An emotional release

The difficulties so far outlined, while complicating the execution of a successful communication program, do not make such a program impossible. The pitfalls can to a large measure be avoided by accepting the fact that the ghetto has its own personality and this must be respected. If an individual can not accept this, there is serious doubt as to whether he should attempt to communicate with the ghetto at all, since it is obvi-

ous that with such an attitude he can not establish any real credibility, and ghetto people are sophisticated enough to separate the wheat from the chaff.

To reach the people in the inner city, one has to first understand what motivates them, what affects them, what will cause them to act or not to act. Such understanding cannot be based on a judgment as to whether these factors are acceptable in a middle class setting, but rather on an acceptance that these factors are relevant to the individual a program is attempting to reach.

Illustrative of this is the dominant role still played in the inner city by the matriarchial system. In many homes, the woman is the rock around which all else flows. The male is stricken with a sense of his own inadequacy while in the home, and very often this inadequacy is reinforced in the street where he finds that the female of the species is more valued in the work world than he. Given these circumstances a man feels less than a man, and anything that he can do to reestablish his manhood is viewed as a desirable goal.

With this as a background, a campaign built on the theme "You Are A Man, Take Your Place In The World", might strike a responsive chord in the inner city. Perhaps by appealing to this longing in terms the inner city male understands, a Community Action Agency can reach out to establish communication with the previously unreached by linking fulfillment of the wish with programs the CAA has to offer.

This example is admittedly simple in design, but it does give some indication of what can be done when the realities of ghetto life are accepted as positive aids in establishing communication.

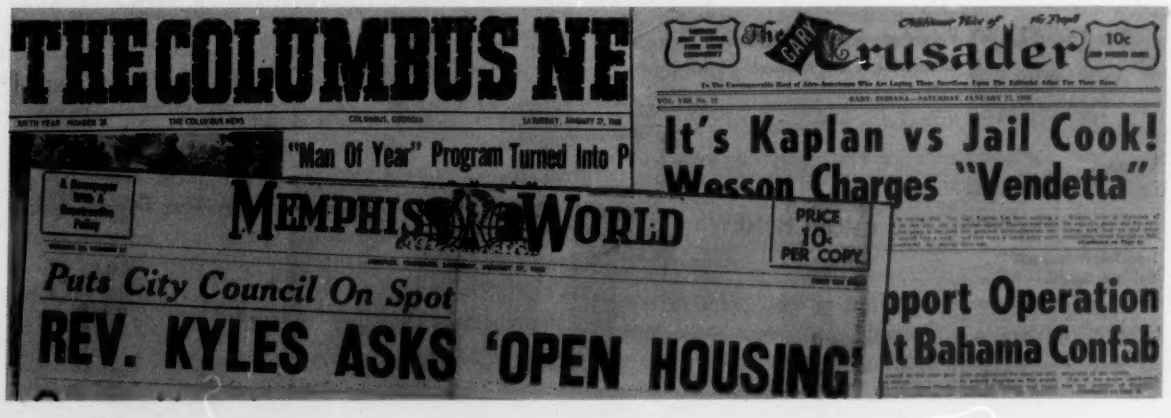
The language in which the message is delivered, is every bit as important as the message itself. A common failure among those who aren't quite certain how ghetto people talk among themselves, is to resort to the use of the vernacular, or what they consider the vernacular, to couch their message in. When the correct terminology is used, this technique has some limited value, but these instances are outnumbered by negative examples that result in further alienation of the targets. The expression "Hey Baby" has some currency in the inner city, but its use in the inner city is predominately among close friends so that an outsider, attempting to use this as a method of establishing communications, will cause more resentment than impact.

The most effective message is one stated in clear, simple English. When you enter the subtleties of ghetto conversation, you run the very real risk of making more enemies than friends, no matter how well intended your efforts may be. Keep the message simple, honest, and keep it addressed to the inner city.

To reach the inner city resident you have to be certain that this individual knows you are talking to him. His past experiences have instilled in him a deep-rooted cynicism that makes him reluctant to believe that any message to the general public is really meant for him. You must, in other words, talk directly to him, using those techniques that will convince him that he is the target of the message.

The use of ethnically oriented radio stations is one such technique. These stations have a tremendous audience, especially among the young. They speak directly to the inner city, and the inner city knows this. A message on this medium has more impact among the people we are concerned with, than a similar message on general radio, or even on television.

Folk heroes of the inner city should be used where possible as the bearers of messages. Folk heroes are those individuals who command the respect and admiration of the people themselves. Those outside the inner city might make the mistake of assuming that the same people they admire, are admired here. This, however, is not true. The inner city selected its own



heroes, and woe be to any program that fails to take this into account.

Unrecognized as an effective medium, by much of the general community, is the Negro press. Over 100 of these newspapers are scattered across the country, in most of the large cities. Many of them can trace their lineage back more than half a century. They were originally established as protest organs, lashing out at segregation and discrimination. With the white press seeing the Negro only as crime statistics, or a jovial shoeshine boy who died after rendering 50 years of faithful service to the white establishment, the Negro press for a long time was the only medium that treated the Negro as a human being.

Things have changed within the past few years with the white press discovering that the Negro does exist and as someone besides the stereotypes of lackeys or criminals. The stepping up of interest in the inner city on the part of the white press, did for a time cast serious doubts on the future role of the Negro press. These doubts, however, have now been resolved in favor of the continuation of the Negro press as a strong and viable voice within the Negro community. Having illustrated through the years its concern for its readers, the Negro press finds a higher degree of receptivity in the inner city, than the white press. A Negro reader reading the Negro press knows the paper is talking about him and to him. He doesn't have to play a guessing game about this. He knows that the Negro press belongs to him and any message it had, is meant for him.

Therefore, a communications program would have to bring in the Negro press in a meaningful way. This does not mean that the paper should be fed stale and dull press releases from a central office. It means that a personal contact is made with the editor who is asked to assist in the program in the way that he thinks most effective. If he thinks the best way to reach the inner city resident is to run a bikini clad beauty in the pages of his newspaper, his advice should be heeded.

Other publications also serve the inner city. A number of magazines are nationally circulated and have a high degree of acceptability in this area. They, of course, can not address themselves to purely local programs, but on a broader basis they can reach into homes where other publications have only minimal effect.

There are also available in these communities certain highly specialized publications that are designed to reach a number of well defined groups. Some of these publications serve church and social groups, some serve night club audiences, but each has its own circle of readers who believe implicitly in its contents. To ignore these outlets is to ignore a very useful line of communication.

Printed material is another way of reaching into the heart of the inner city, but even the best of this will be wasted unless it is placed where the people you are attempting to reach will come into contact with it. There are certain rather obvious facilities that can be used—stores, churches, schools—but not to be neglected are taverns, pool halls, community centers, etc. It doesn't matter whether you approve of these locations or not, the only thing of real concern is that this is where you can reach people that you can reach in no other manner. The printed material should feature where possible, local people, or at least people who obviously belong to the inner city.

These are only a few of the avenues available for a communications program. There are many more. Such devices as parades to arouse attention, street corner booths to disseminate information, are examples of these.

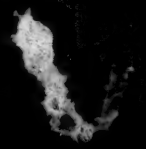
However, if any program desires to establish communication links with the hard core of the inner city, the unreachables, it will initially have to carve out its own credibility. Good intentions are to be respected, but they alone are not enough in convincing the people in the inner city that they should listen.

Early in the formation of a communications program, the natural leaders of the community have to be brought into the picture and they have to be convinced that the program has merit. The term "natural leader" here distinguishes them from the people who the outside world too often mistakenly regards as leaders. Natural leaders are those who relate directly to the ghetto, whose words and advice will be listened to. Many of these people are to be found in Community Action Agencies, in store front churches, on street corners. With their support, there is no reason why the barriers can not be destroyed and why communications can not be established. You will, however, have to ask these people for support. They aren't going to volunteer.

The people who live in inner cities are as inherently intelligent as any one else. Some may not know the right fork or verb to use, but they are not babes in the woods. They will demand from any communications program that it treat them with dignity and respect, that it not talk down to them, that it be honestly motivated and administered.

If this basic rule is followed, if a real effort can be made, communications can be established with the inner city.

JAMES D. WILLIAMS
Chief, CAP Public Affairs, OEO



CAP NEWSLINE

HEAD START

WHO KNOWS? ERIC KNOWS!

Whenever a group of people working for Head Start get together, they compare notes on what is happening at their Centers. New ideas, new materials, new plans, the whole range of topics important to Head Start, take wing in these discussions.

Not everyone gets into these discussions or can everyone be heard this way. Thus the new ideas or unusual experiences are lost to the wider Head Start audience. They just fly away. But now ERIC to the rescue.

ERIC is the acronym for Educational Resources Information Center, a system of clearinghouses which collects and distributes information. These clearinghouses, of which there are 18 in the United States, are organized according to subject matter. For example, there is a clearinghouse on the Disadvantaged, and another on Teacher Education.

The one that concerns Head Start specifically is the clearinghouse on Early Childhood Education, located at the University of Illinois. This center receives information, distributes information, and provides special materials and services which will help Head Start staffs keep up with what is happening, and with new developments.

Information received by the clearinghouse from local Child Development Centers forms the input. This information may include reports describing programs, copies of speeches, new ideas and curricula, and other pertinent information concerning Head Start. You can help feed ERIC. Just send two copies of all data submitted to:

Research and Evaluation Branch
Project Head Start
1111-18th Street, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20506

The staff at the Branch will forward the material to the clearinghouse at the University of Illinois, where it will become part of the ERIC system.

When requesting information from ERIC, it is important to pinpoint very precisely the subject in which you are interested, in order to avoid being swamped with the response. Don't ask for "Everything you have on Head Start." Specify your needs by saying, for example, "Please send me a bibliography on verbal learning in Head Start."

Perhaps you want to know about studies of teacher characteristics that are most important for good Head Start programs. Or the type of tests that are available to determine what the children are learning. Maybe you want to know who is carrying out research on language development of Head Start children. ERIC can supply all of this type of information.

Your request should be made to:

The ERIC Clearinghouse on
Early Childhood Education
805 West Pennsylvania Avenue
Urbana, Illinois 62404
(Area Code 217:333-1386)

You will either receive the information directly, or be instructed on how to order it.

Special materials that the clearinghouse assembles are also available from time to time. These materials may include descriptions of promising teaching practices, new ideas in curriculum, availability of new equipment, and statements bringing together and interpreting many research findings.

Use the ERIC system. It is designed for your benefit, and is the major source of all information available on Head Start. Once you take advantage of the system, you will find it easy to use, and most helpful.

One thing though: write on your letterhead. ERIC is for Head Start and other early child development folks.

OTTAWA'S ADULT H'STARTERS

Project Head Start concerns itself not only with the child, but with every related factor influencing his development. Consequently, prime consideration is given to Head Start parents.

With this as a premise, Kansas' East Central Economic Opportunity Corporation (ECKAN) Head Start became interested in providing adult basic education for parents of Head Start children whereby they could make preparation to take the G.E.D. test. Successful qualification on this test grants the equivalency of a high school diploma given by the Kansas State Department of Public Instruction.

A quick survey revealed that such training was available through the public school at Lawrence and Paola. Similar instruction was also located at the area Vocational Technical School in Emporia, at the cost of $30.00 per student.

Their contact was made with the Department of Adult Education, Kansas State Department of Public Instruction, Topeka, Kansas. Their funds for adult basic education were exhausted and no hope of assistance in the near future was extended. The need was still apparent, but the means were yet to be found. Thought was given to operating an A.B.E. program on a gratis basis. The thought took form, and consequently, the following developed.

Unified School District #290 provided classroom space and some supplementary materials. Volunteer teachers were recruited from the ECKAN staff and the Ottawa Retired Teachers Association. The program was placed under the direction of David Clapsaddle, ECKAN Head Start Director and Dr. Norbert Lickteig of Emerald, Kansas, assumed the responsibility of Program Coordinator.

Yet another problem presented itself, that of baby-sitting for parents who could not otherwise attend the classes. The Ottawa Head Start Mothers Club quickly agreed to care for this service and nursery space was donated by Sacred Heart Catholic Church. These hard working ladies also recruited students for these classes and 107 people are now enrolled. While the majority of this number reside in Ottawa, participants commute from the surrounding cities of Centropolis, Rentoul, Williamsburg, Pomona, Centerville, Garnett, and even Kansas City.

A by-product of this endeavor is the formation of a literacy class. Several adults who have no facility in the English language requested elementary education. In turn, Miss Luella Parrott of the Franklin County Welfare Agency initiated classes to meet this need in conjunction with A.B.E. Eight people are enrolled in this training including two immigrants from Cuba and one from Germany.

Classes are now conducted each Monday and Wednesday night. The course is designed to continue for four and one-half months with the anticipation of continuing the program as long as a need exists.

This is community action in the best sense. ECKAN, Unified School District #290, Retired Teacher's Association of Ottawa, Franklin County Welfare Agency, Ottawa Head Start Mothers Club, and many interested citizens have combined their efforts to provide a meaningful service without funds from federal, state, or local sources.

Originally, this program was designed to care for Head Start parents only. But ultimately, it serves the entire community. Having received such a response in Ottawa, a similar program was initiated in Emporia. Twelve graduate students at Kansas State Teachers College under the direction of Dr. J. T. Sandefur agreed to provide instruction, and the college volunteered two mobile classrooms. Babysitting was arranged under the auspices of SERVE, a religious organization on the campus. Presently, twenty-eight people are participating in the program. It has been suggested that the college may make such instruction a regular part of its curriculum.

In Emporia, as in Ottawa, adult basic education has received the support of many interested parties. The Emporia Jaycees have donated funds to purchase books for the teachers, and other service organizations have indicated a similar desire.

Thus, adult basic education is now available in every city where the East Central Kansas Community Action Program operates Head Start.

CAP NEWSLINE

OEO HEALTHRIGHT PROGRAMS

THAT TOUCHY SUBJECT —FAMILY PLANNING

At a Chicago meeting of CAP Neighborhood Health Center personnel from many areas, Dr. Gary London, Associate Director for Family Planning, OEO, was approached by a number of participants requesting information on family planning programs. Some of their questions, and Dr. London's replies, follow:

Q. Can we have a family planning clinic in our NHC?

A. Yes, you certainly can. In fact, you should offer family planning services—an NHC is to be comprehensive in its services, and family planning is an important element of total family health care. In addition to the health benefits of family planning, such a program allows the individual and the family the dignity of choice in the most personal and important matter of family size.

Q. Does such a clinic within an NHC require special eligibility criteria?

A. No. The family planning program within an NHC is guided by the eligibility criteria set up by the Center. Last year a previous restriction against use of OEO funds for purchase of contraceptives for unmarried women was removed.

Q. Is a special record-keeping system necessary?

A. No. Since family planning is a part of the comprehensive services of an NHC, the records of family planning encounters are included in the general health record of the individual. For the purpose of quality-control and evaluation, each family planning component submits a brief quarterly report on utilization of family planning services, costs, breakdown of kinds of services, etc.

Q. How do we go about setting up a family planning program at our center?

A. Most centers now in operation started out from the very beginning with a family planning program, for instance the Gouverneur Center in New York. If you are just planning one, this is what I would suggest: Find out from your community representatives and neighborhood workers what kind of family planning services are already available, and how they would like to see additional services organized. Then talk with the OB-GYN staff of your center and with any consultants to the center who are concerned with family planning. Once you have a good idea of the needs and resources, you might want to contact the family planning office at OEO headquarters to request the help of a family planning expert in developing a program and implementing it. We have a panel of 23 such consultants across the country, all highly qualified in the family planning field, who are on contract with this office to provide such technical assistance to new programs.

Q. Can a clinic like ours supply all kinds of services?

A. For the most part, yes. The only limitations on the kinds

of services are the wishes of the target area population and state or local legislation. In Boston, after the Massachusetts legislature recently voted to make the laws against the sale and prescription of family planning materials more liberal, it was possible to begin the family planning program as an integral part of the OB-GYN services. The only method for which OEO funds cannot be spent is surgical sterilization.

Q. Is there any way of delegating the family planning component to some groups with more

experience in the field?

A. Yes. Many of the family planning programs that were organized by the CAAs across the country are actually delegated, for operation, to a Planned Parenthood affiliate or the local public health department. There is no reason why an NHC should not avail itself of the expertise that may already exist in the community—in any case, care must be taken to avoid duplication of services.

MOBILIZING MEDICAL MANPOWER

The nation's doctors will need all the help they can get to administer to the needs of the poor. There is already an acute shortage of both professional and nonprofessional workers in health services.

The dimensions of need are clear in light of the following statistics:

"By 1967—50% of poor children have not had adequate immunizations

64% of poor children have not seen a dentist

45% of all women who have babies in public hospitals have no prenatal care

Poor infants are two times more likely to die before age one than non-poor infants, and four times more likely to die before age 35.

"OEO records show that among Job Corps men and women 70% had not seen a physician for several years before entering the Corps; 90% had never seen a dentist; one-third needed eyeglasses. The typical Corpsman is ten pounds underweight and his need for medical attention is so great that he averages 27 visits annually to Job Corps medical facilities. Of Head Start children, 40% had never seen a dentist; 24 per 1000 had allergic conditions; 32 per 1000 had skin disorders; and 49 per 1000 had eye problems.

"The United States stands 14th in the world in infant mortality rates. Poor citizens have three times more disabling heart disease, seven times more visual impairment, and five times more mental illness than the rest of the population."

To get this sorely indicated medical and dental service to the poor most quickly, OEO has initiated two important experimental training programs at three universities.

A $900,000 grant, administered by the University of Southern California Medical School, the University of Chicago Medical School, and the Albert Einstein School of Medicine in New York is enabling 260 health profession students and 160 Neighborhood Youth Corpsmen to provide a variety of health-related services to the poor. The program is designed to relieve manpower shortages at health agencies and to provide students with experience not available in the classroom. The young people perform a broad range of functions including assistance to patients in making appointments, setting up screening clinics, conducting follow-up visits, and providing general patient support. The involvement of Neighborhood Youth Corpsmen is expected to stimulate interest in health careers among many of those participating.

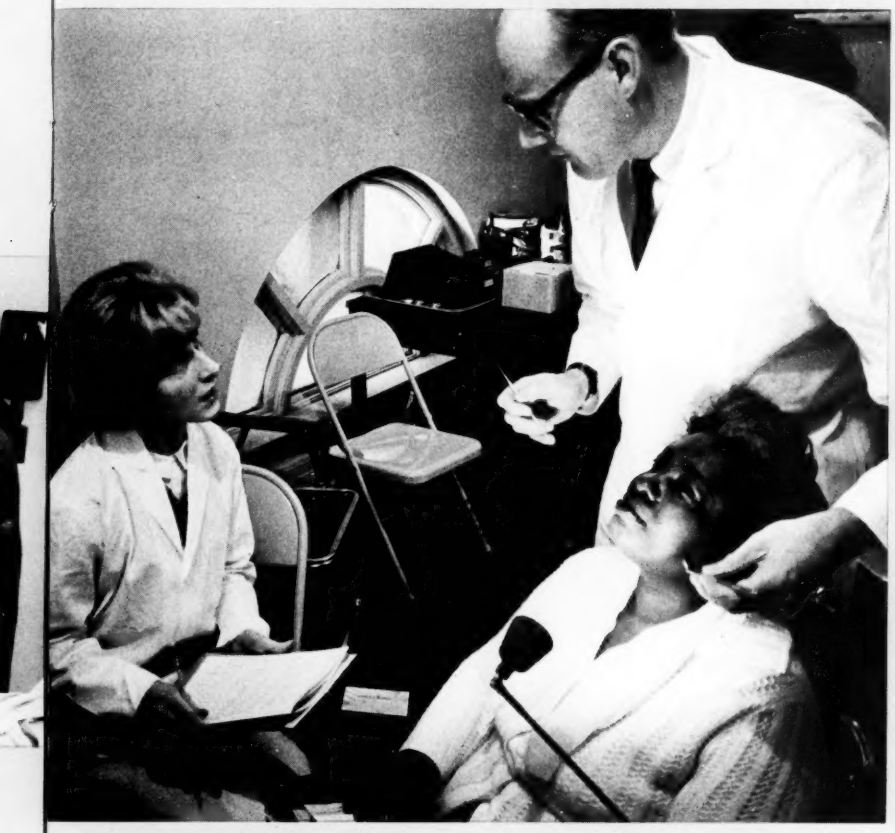
The California Project includes 107 students from 42 different health science institutions. This group is made up of 62 medical students, 25 nursing students, 8 dental students, and several from other disciplines including 4 in dental hygience, 3 in social work, 3 in sociology, and one in law.

There are 37 students plus 40 Neighborhood Youth Corps teenagers in 7 projects in Northern California. In the San Joaquin Valley there are 30 health science students and 25 NYC's; in Los Angeles there are 40 students and 23 NYC's.

Chicago has 96 health science students from 33 schools—60 medical, 21 nursing, 8 dentistry, 3 social work, 3 law, and 1 osteopathy. There are 68 teenage interns serving at about 35 sites.

New York City is benefiting from the efforts of 56 students—36 medical, 13 nursing, 6 social work and sociology, 1 dental—representing 35 different schools.

CAP NEWSLINE *OEO HEALTHRIGHT*



SISTERS GRATA AND GERTRUDE AT RED LAKE

Two Benedictine nuns from St. Scholastica in Duluth have volunteered their services as nurses with the Red Lake (Minnesota) Reservation CAP Comprehensive Health Services Project. The nuns—Sister Grata (who will serve as Supervising Nurse in the Health Program) and Sister Gertrude (who will function as Administrative Assistant and Physiotherapist)—had several years experience at St. Mary's Hospital in Duluth. Living accommodations will be made available at Red Lake.

While Benedictines have served on Indian Reservations before, they have always worked in church-connected capacities. This marks the first time that members of the Order have been able to offer their help within a reservation-sponsored and administered program. Officials of the Order in Duluth indicated that the project was in keeping with the new church policy of making the educational and health services of the Order available to communities.

The Red Lake Comprehensive Health Services Program provides a broad range of medical care. It is the only program of its kind on American Indian reservations, and is viewed nationally as an experimental prototype in solving health problems on Indian reservations.

SOMETIMES, YOU MUST GO HOME AGAIN!

Among the letters replying to a request from Chicago NHC Directors for information regarding reasons why their professional staff members decided to become a part of an NHC is the following received by Dr. Joseph English, OEO-CAP Health Services Director:

Dear Dr. English:

I shall introduce myself by giving you a thumbnail sketch of my background. I am an American Negro from rural Mississippi, who migrated to Chicago with my parents to live in a ghetto. I therefore have firsthand knowledge of what it means to be undernourished, disadvantaged and culturally deprived. It was only my early determination to become a doctor that sustained me through the many hardships that led to attainment.

During my residency at Cook County Hospital I became painfully aware of the inadequacy of facilities for the sick poor and of their extreme need for medical care due to the unhealthy condition of their surroundings. Hundreds of babies were brought to the hospital daily suffering from lead poisoning, rat bites, malnutrition, and all the other diseases of the impoverished. Many who should have been hospitalized were sent back home because of the lack of facilities at the one hospital to take care of them.

Many who should have come to the hospital for treatment never made it because of their inability and/or lack of energy to travel the distance.

It was with great enthusiasm that I accepted the invitation to become part of a team devised to serve the inner city health project whereby medical care is within the physical and financial reach of those who need it most. After working with the Lawndale Center for several months, now, I am convinced that the neighborhood clinic is a necessary vital step in the right direction. I hope the program is here to stay.

Sincerely,
Audrey E. Forbes, M.D.

CAP NEWSLINE

UPWARD BOUND

95.7% Pure

No one is sure statistics are the appropriate means of proving whether we are winning or losing, and they are most definitely not the best reflector of the human picture. But one little-noticed statistic intrigues OEO data-counters —95.7% of the 20,000 teenagers enrolled in Upward Bound in the summer of 1966 continued in the follow-up phase throughout the regular school year.

So what?

To a teacher, that kind of response is very exciting indeed.

It should be good news to most other taxpayers also. That 95.7% of 20,000 teenagers means that 19,140 kids 15, 16, and 17 years old who just a year ago were getting C's and D's or worse in school; who were hanging on street corners, or in pool halls, or in gangs who were up to no good —those same kids are now spending their time studying and doing extra curricular work after school, on Saturdays and just about any time they have left over to work on Upward Bound projects.

They are visiting art galleries, participating in community and cultural events, and even volunteering to tutor younger pupils. As one project director put it: "It takes guts to give up your Saturdays in order to undertake additional study. These kids are doing it and doing it enthusiastically."

Ex-dropouts now tutors

Want examples?

In Chicago, Upward Bound students from Northwestern University are tutoring other impoverished youngsters at the Archie Moore Community Center.

A guidance counselor in a Dallas, Texas high school says the change in the Upward Bound youngsters after one summer in the Southern Methodist project is fantastic.

"They just came back in bouncing," she reported in a local press story. "Many who had been taking the minimum requirements for graduation switched to college preparatory. Their academic grades improved, but their personalities even more so. You can pick the Upward Bound students out of a crowd of their classmates. They're the ones with the most poise, maturity and purpose."

Upward Bound is the pre-college program of the War on Poverty's Community Action Program —the Head Start program of the teenage set. It aims to plug the sieve through which the potential talents and brains of underprivileged youngsters are lost to society. By discovering, developing and re-directing these talents and energies, Upward Bound hopes to affect not only the goals and ambitions of the students in Upward Bound, but also the schools from which they come.

The initial results of OEO's pre-college program for impoverished high school students are extremely encouraging, and positively prove that Sargent Shriver was correct in June 1965, when he initiated Upward Bound with the following statement:

"America's greatest waste is the loss of skill and exceptional minds of those young people who are capable of going to college, but cannot do so because of the psychological, social and physical conditions of poverty."

New Kids On Campus

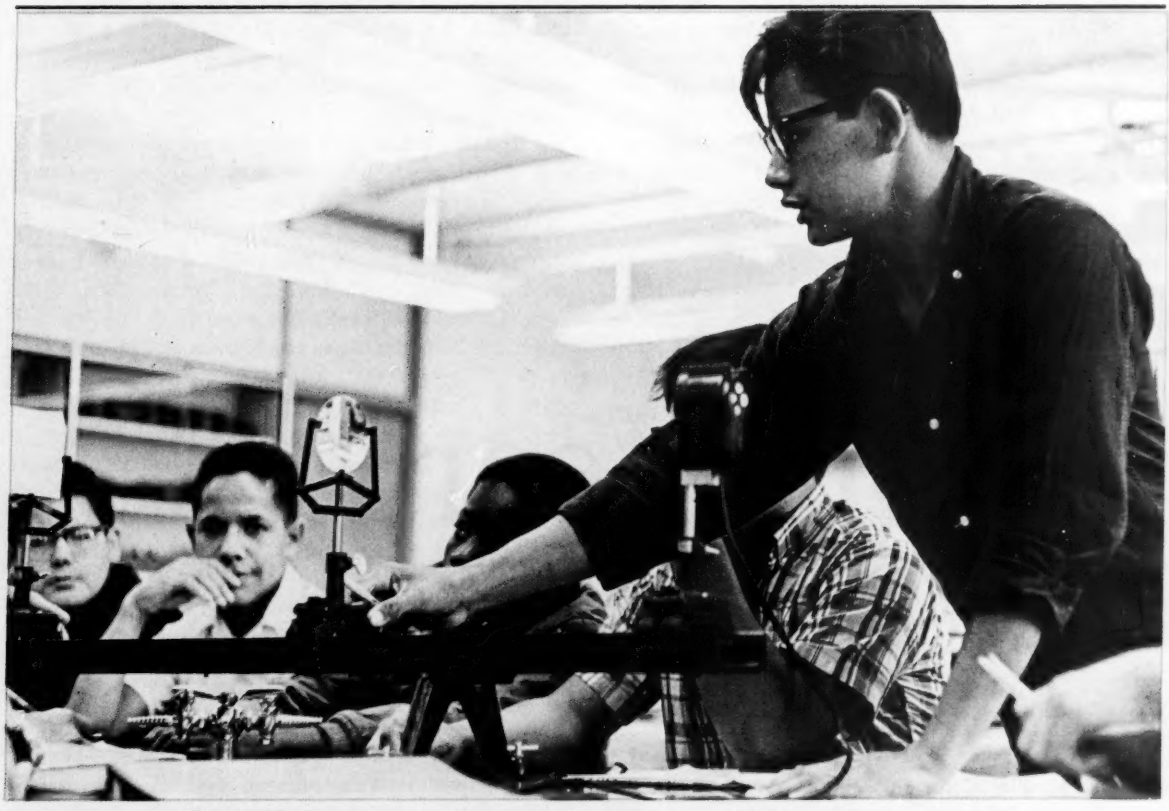
Of 5,717 graduating seniors from Upward Bound programs in June 1967, 4,750 or 80% entered college this fall. The 1965 and 1966 Upward Bound graduates also entered college at about an 80% rate, and the dropout rate for both groups during the freshman year was only 12%. That's lower than the dropout rate for the general college population.

Recent data on a control group of the '65 graduates, now in their junior year of college, puts the dropout rate at 33%, the same rate as the entire college population. Given the extremely high admission rate for Upward Bound students (80% versus 65% for the general high school population), they are well ahead of the averages.

Ripple Effect

Dr. Thomas Billings, national director of Upward Bound, believes that an enrollment of 100,000 students in this educational experiment could have a significant ripple affect on secondary and higher education. If OEO could expand enrollment in Upward Bound to at least 100,000 of a projected pool of 600,000 eligible youngsters, the entire educational system in America would feel the impact.

Older students enrolled in Upward Bound would influence younger brothers and sisters, as well as classmates. (Many Upward Bound students now tutor voluntarily in community education programs aimed at younger pupils—such as the Archie Moore Center in Chicago.) Teachers and counselors involved in Upward Bound projects would bring some of what they have learned to public and private secondary schools. Envious parents would begin pressing for similar advantages for their children. The chances are good that within a short period of time the remaining 500,000



disadvantaged high school youngsters would be enrolled in special educational programs supported by local, state or foundation money.

The educational experiences available in the ghetto schools these students attend during the regular school year should be uplifted and broadened by the Upward Bound participation of both teachers and students.

Upward Bound's ripple affect on institutions of higher education is extremely gratifying even at this early stage—and may be an important indicator of the times. While only 250 institutions received OEO grants to support Upward Bound projects in the 1967-68 school year, more than double that number have accepted Upward Bound students as regular college students this fall. With full knowledge that these students will need special care and attention—including academic tutorial help, almost complete financial aid and personal counseling, such as support in adiusting to the college campus crowd —577 four-year institutions and 161 junior colleges admitted Upward Bound students in the fall of 1967.

Strengthening The Halls Of Ivy

That is a hopeful indicator that the blinders worn by higher education for so many years have been removed—they are beginning to view the world of the ghetto as not only a challenge to their educational expertise but a possible source of educational enrichment for the offspring of the more affluent in our society.

The former Dean of Harvard College, John U. Monro, in praising the Upward Bound concept, said that the colleges were ready for this kind of a program but that they badly needed the structure and the support.

"It puts us on our metal to do the things we should have been doing and wanted to do, and Upward Bound gave us the structure and resources to do it," said Dean Monro.

One college trustee, discussing with his colleagues the relative merits of mounting an Upward Bound project on their campus, was even more emphatic. "This may well be the most important program this college will sponsor in the second half of this century," he declared.

Citizens' Volunteer Corps

VISTA Director Bill Crook details a program that would place 100,000 middle-class Americans at the service of Community Action

There is little doubt that Americans today have more time on their hands than any other people have had at any time in history.

Industries are being carved out of leisure time. Services are accounting for more dollars of the gross national product each year. Vacations are longer, weekend vacations are becoming commonplace, and during the week, the average family spends more than five and one-half hours each day in front of the TV set. Time itself has become a problem in this country. For many Americans, the filling, if not the fulfilling, of spare time is becoming a sort of second life.

It is a paradox, then, that we are just beginning to heed Americans who have demonstrated that they are willing to put some of this time into helping their fellow men. A Gallup survey shows that 75 per cent of all college alumni are willing to serve as volunteers in projects that will help others. More than half the college population feels the same way. These statistics are from Gallup surveys that investigated the willingness of young Americans to serve in the Office of Economic Opportunity's VISTA program, on a full-time or part-time basis.

Thousands of Americans do find time for worthwhile work in poverty programs. But millions of others await the call. This paradox is the result of a communications gap between those who need help and those who are willing to give it.

President Lyndon B. Johnson no doubt was aware of this spirit, this resource that Gallup called a "veritable Niagara of brainpower" when he announced the VISTA CITIZENS' VOLUNTEER CORPS early in 1967. The President said:

> "Millions of Americans live in poverty despite our nation's great wealth. I believe this should not be—and need not be, if enough Americans lend their help. It is not possible, of course, for all who would like to help to be full-time VISTA Volunteers. But if half the young people in our high schools and universities, and only one American housewife out of every three would volunteer a few hours each week, this could provide a personal tutor for almost every potential high school dropout; a teacher's aide for every Head Start child; a personal counselor for mothers who are struggling to rear families in poverty. I hope you agree

that such a volunteer effort could produce exciting results. And I urge you to join the VISTA CITIZENS' VOLUNTEER CORPS—a new and promising project to enlist public-spirited Americans in the effort to improve life for all our people."

If the TV world of slick, colorful, well-fed and beautiful people has fed the rage of those 30 million poor Americans who are underfed, intellectually starved and who were for many years the forgotten society, it also cut the other way, beginning in 1964. The poor came into everybody's living room and nobody liked the picture. Television and the OEO dragged poverty center stage, and that wretched sight hit a national nerve. Increasingly, there came to be a national sense of mission, and it frequently finds expression in "What can I do."

To those in Suburbia still asking "What can I do to help?" this part-time Volunteer Corps was and continues to be the answer. It offered a chance to shake the tokenism of the bandage rolling and Wednesday afternoon lecture approach to duty. It fits today's Judeo-Christian imperative that tells us the world is weary of philosophic exercise and could stand a little labor to prove the doctrine of love. It offers a spiritual home for college students whose social conscience finds no challenge on the campus, a generation of students who believe that only direct personal action can bring change.

VISTA was a natural choice to develop the CITIZENS' CORPS. It was approaching its current strength of 4,250 full-time volunteers when the Corps was inaugurated. Its knowledge of volunteers and their role in the War on Poverty could be extended to build a new army of part-time volunteers. And a survey showed that VISTA volunteers already were using part-time volunteers on many projects.

CITIZENS CORPS volunteers are housewives, professional people, students, and white and blue collar workers from all economic levels of society. Their only common denominator is the desire to serve. Americans 14 or older who have something to offer the program are eligible. And it is estimated that 35,000 have responded to the call. VISTA is working toward an initial goal of 100,000 in the next few months.

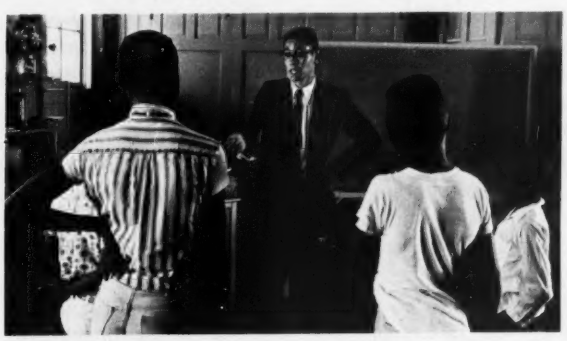
The outstanding feature of the program, aside from its obvious qualities of humanity, is that it produces enormous benefits at little or no cost. VISTA estimates that it can field a CITIZENS CORPS of 100,000 for administrative costs of about $100,000 a year—a dollar per year per volunteer.

Benefits are widespread. Poverty areas benefit from the new resource of labor that brings to the poor a rich variety of services and talents. Sponsoring poverty agencies are a natural framework to take on this added manpower, at no added cost, and mount a significant second effort. And the public, of course, can channel its energies into the nation's assault against poverty. And the volunteers serving in this program are seeing first hand the depth of the poverty problem. These are thousands of Americans who will never again dismiss poverty, who become convinced it must be dealt with directly and immediately.

What do CITIZENS CORPS volunteers do? Like regular VISTA volunteers, they act as a link between the dispossessed and various Federal, state and community programs set up to help them. They are a channel for communication with the middle class community. They may work with a gang, settle a welfare problem, do volunteer recreation work or counsel dropouts who may be brought back to school or into a training program. They work in Head Start programs, and many work in tutoring programs. They direct families to a wide range of governmental services in health, legal aid, job training and education. A Corpsman may set up a community food buying cooperative to save money on grocery buying, a tenant council to deal with inequities in rental housing or he may be a one man employment agency finding jobs for the poor and helping them to keep those jobs.

Some examples of CITIZENS CORPS projects:

In Pittsburgh's East Liberty section, 400 youngsters too long neglected are now involved in a cultural enrichment program which has taken them out of the narrow ghetto environment to museums, college campuses and ball games. The program is called LINK,



and has attempted to do just that: match volunteer college students. called LINK leaders, with small groups of youngsters. LINK's originator was a VISTA Volunteer who recruited more than 150 students into a personal involvement with the youngsters and their families.

Over 200 college and high school students were recruited in Baltimore to participate in a tutorial project based in a public housing project. The VISTAs recruit, screen and help train the tutors, recruit the children from the housing project, and match tutor with child.

When it was found that Neighborhood Youth Corpsmen and their more than 300 parents in the community of Eagle Pass, Texas, wanted to be involved in community service projects above and beyond their work with the NYC, the 13 VISTAs serving there made full use of their interest and support. The teen-agers participated in clean-up campaigns, distribution of citizenship information to the Spanish-speaking, and assisted in construction and repair projects.

For "PROJECT TALENT," a VISTA Volunteer recruited hundreds of students from university campuses in New York City. These part-time volunteers work with high school students who have college potential in a college preparatory effort. Professors are now providing in-service training for the tutors as well as academic evaluation for students who are receiving degree credit for their participation.

In Northern Michigan, VISTA Volunteers are running a program in which high school students are tutoring their own classes. Begun in one high school, interest has spread and other junior high and grade school principals have inquired about similar programs for their own schools.

In a North Carolina community, 50 of the best students in two Negro schools were trained by the established Y.E.S., Inc. and are tutoring elementary school children. The project was an idea originated by two VISTA Volunteers assigned to the Craven "Operation Progress."

In an isolated area in Appalachia, 1500 local residents joined forces with the VISTA Volunteers to help design and put into action a county-wide recreation program. Only with local help could the program have been broadened to reach more than 9,000 children and young adults.

In a neighboring county, a handful of VISTA Volunteers were able to involve more than 7000 Appalachian children and adults in an education program; but the Volunteers shared their success with the more than 1600 local adults who helped them plan and carry out this community effort by volunteering thousands of free hours as supervisors and counselors.

For seasonal farm workers in southern Florida, where employment is scanty, VISTAs have helped give new meaning to idle months. VISTA Volunteers rounded up enough mothers to provide the vital manpower to run pre-schools for over 750 children.

A VISTA Volunteer in Omaha used over 300 members of two city clubs of young people to "establish a library" in the low-income area of the city. The clubs were given the responsibility of handling all aspects of starting a library, from collecting books in book drives, to cataloging, to building shelves. The VISTA Volunteer is now encouraging continued involvement on the part of these young people—not only with the running of the library, but with the people for whom it was built.

A VISTA Volunteer assigned to a Greensboro, North Carolina public housing project organized a tutorial program for more than 200 children in public housing. After contact was made with three local colleges, the Volunteer set up an advisory board of faculty and students which now handles the recruitment and screening of student-tutors. In most cases the tutors have established close contact with parents and teachers of the children, so that their work complements work done in school.

When a young VISTA Volunteer in Houston found that a major concern among low income mothers was their children's education, he made a neighborhood settlement house his headquarters, mapped out a strategy to use part-time volunteer tutors, and talked to university classes. Eighty students were recruited and seven tutorial centers were set up in churches and homes in the Mexican-American and Negro ghettoes of the city. The results: The Houston Post publicized the need for more tutors, another group donated printed pamphlets describing the program, and when fully launched, the YMCA took over the bulk of the program's administrative work.

To give the program direction and efficiency, VISTA is now giving every full time Volunteer trainee a basic knowledge on recruiting and supervising CITIZENS CORPS volunteers. Each of the seven regional training centers, where VISTAs receive six weeks training, is organizing a CITIZENS CORPS program in the training center community. The center, then, maintains a real, continuing laboratory for training VISTAs to mobilize the Corpsman resource. Sponsoring Community Action Agencies send poverty workers to the regional centers for the same kind of training.

This then, is the CITIZENS CORPS. It is barely off the ground, in terms of its potential. As it grows, so will the national awareness of poverty. Each volunteer will help to reduce the intensity of poverty, so that it will be a decreasing factor in the equation of American life.

WILLIAM CROOK, Director
VISTA—OEO

SWAFCA

The step-by-step account of a history-making farmers' cooperative in Southwest Alabama supported by CAP

An interview with Calvin S. Orsborn, Manager Southwest Alabama Farmers Cooperative (SWAFCA) of Selma, Ala.

CIA: Well, would you identify yourself, sir?

ORSBORN: I'm Calvin S. Orsborn, currently the manager of the Southwest Alabama Farms Cooperative of Selma, Alabama. I have been a resident of Selma for 40 years. I attended school at Hampton Institute and Tuskegee Institute. I am the father of four kids—one son and three daughters, and my wife is the former Mary Emma Custarfin of Oak Hill, Alabama, in Wilcox County.

CIA: Mr. Orsborn, for Community Action people throughout the country, it would be useful if you could briefly and succinctly trace the history of SWAFCA—how you got into it. Just take it informally.

ORSBORN: SWAFCA development began in the minds of poor, low-income farmers in Dallas and adjacent counties of Alabama. The idea of pooling their resources to make their living better, to raise their own standards of living I think was urged on a bit by the sharp reductions in the cotton acres that these people for so long have had so much dependence on. In the cotton program over the past ten years the reductions, especially to low-income farmers, has been so sharp that they have been forced to try to find new methods of making idle land productive, and to help them to get an income off this land.

Q: Are we talking now about low-income farmers who have their own acreage?

A: Low-income farmers who have their own acreage, yes, and also low-income farmers who are renters and who have access to lands that are available in the area.

Q: Explain the two relationships. I know nothing about farming. Tenant farming or ownership farming?

A: The members of SWAFCA—about 54 per cent of them—own their own land. About 10 per cent of them are buying land presently. The other membership is composed of tenant farmers and renters. Generally, a tenant farmer has had to work land for a landlord, and this arrangement was done on the basis that the tenant was given a house to live in and he farmed whatever crops the landlord wanted farmed. He worked the land on a share basis, sort of. This is the relationship between landlord and tenant.

Q: What I'm trying to find out is how tenants—tenant farmers belonging to a cooperative—keep most of what they farm, even if the land isn't theirs. This is very hazy to me.

A: In most instances, landlords will let a tenant have a patch around the house to farm vegetables or some truck crop of his own.

Q: Let's get back to the development of SWAFCA.

A: Well, the development, as I said, began totally with the farmer. He was searching for a method to raise his income, to keep himself productive on the land that he had been on, in the occupation that he knows, and the necessity for his own livelihood was the cause of his advancement into a venture like SWAFCA. In the beginning there were about 75 to 100 farmers. There were and are key men in each area, in each county there, and in most cases the people who have spearheaded the move in their counties are now the president of their own local county chapters. For instance, Joe Johnson, who is president of the Dallas County Chapter of SWAFCA, and also the president of the whole SWAFCA organization, is still the chairman of the Dallas County Chapter.

Q: Now, how long had the idea of cooperatives been kicking around with these men, whom I assume you've known for some years?

A: Well, the idea of a co-op or the idea of our people pooling their resources to help fight competition and big business has been in the minds of the people ever since I can remember. But they have never had the resources to foster such an endeavor.

The rural program of the OEO actually gave these farmers the glimmer of hope. They thought that through their approach to OEO and their appeal to OEO for assistance in this type of venture that they would get the resources necessary to establish an organization that would help to foster, or help to become a cooperative organization in the truck farm area.

Q: Well, what do you remember as your first contact with OEO in the War on Poverty?

A: The first contact was a group of letters sent out by local farmers to the Director of the Rural Services Program, I believe. The response was favorable. The first contact was made for information as to how to approach the idea of making a proposal for a grant.

The actual work began on launching SWAFCA in late 1966—oh, I would say late November. The ball really got rolling after the beginning of 1967, in January or February of 1967.

Q: We understand that OEO and your group got together because OEO was the only agency—or had become the only agency existent to date—which has been able to really move on the problems of the marginal farmer. And, as I understand it, the people in SWAFCA are marginal farmers. Would you describe what their economic state has been, and how OEO has been able to help them.

A: In the survey we took, in 1966, it was established that the average member of the SWAFCA organization's income was around $1500 a year. This type of income kept the poor farmer in Alabama from being eligible for FHA assistance on an individual basis, and there was no FHA program at the time to assist in loans to establish co-ops.

Q: So your response—your appeals to OEO was to help you in a way that existing government agencies hadn't been able to.

A: OEO is the only way we had. This is the only agency of the government at that time that was able to say that they could fund the establishment of a poor farmers' co-op.

Q: Let's begin again at that point. How did it come to be? Once OEO and your group came together, step by step, tell me. You can leave out the headaches.

A: Well, after the request for the procedure to follow, we began to take surveys to show the feasibility of a co-op of this nature, to show where it would pay off as an organization, and it would also raise the level of income to the poor farmer in our area.

The proposal was written up and presented to OEO for approval. Now, the first proposal was revamped several times in order to help make it a feasible organization.

Q: What was your argument to us that a cooperative would substantially raise the economic levels of the member farmers?

A: The basic thing was this, that the average farmer in the area could grow. He had the natural ability, the knowledge of growing truck crops—peas, cucumbers, okra, beans—but the problem has always been that the marketing system is so sophisticated now that a man who grows a very small acreage of any truck crop has no way to market it.

The idea that the co-op would establish a market outlet for every five or ten baskets of peas or beans or okra that would come in, and by accumulating volume and selling for the members in volume, the members themselves would be able to sell what they produced.

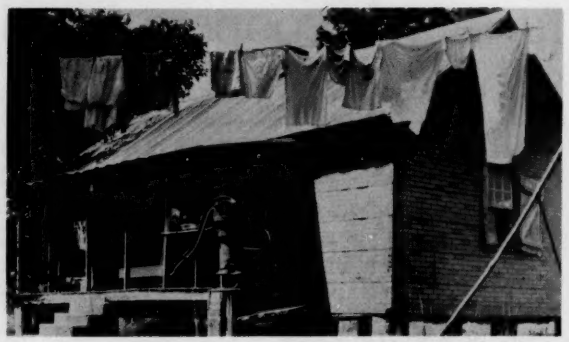
In making our surveys preparatory to giving a proposal to OEO, we had the help of the Cooperative League of the U.S. We had the help of several technical institutions in our area to help to gather these surveys.

Also, the volunteer staff of SWAFCA at the time participated in these surveys.

Q: Now, once you proved to OEO that your proposal was a feasible one, what happened?

A: The next thing was to wait until we were funded.

Q. How much money did you ask for?



A: Originally, a little over $500,000. The final proposal was approved for $399,000.

Q. Okay. You have your initial funding, now, what happened, what did you do?

A: The SWAFCA program had been in operation actually since January. And I mean by that that it had begun buving fertilizers and seeds for the farmers. We had the farmers work to such a point where even with the proposal being considered, and the season coming upon us, we had to go ahead and make loans to borrow money in order to purchase fertilizers and seeds to distribute to the farmers so that the operation could continue, even though the proposal had not been approved at that time.

At that time there were approximately a thousand farmers involved. In ten counties.

Once the grant was approved, we were able all of us to draw fresh money from the grant funds. With this money we began to hire the technical staff. The grant's purpose, in itself, is a technical grant. It's a grant to hire staff to furnish the office to actually set the organization to help the farmer. It does not give anything directly to farmers.

The organization itself, out of its operation, has to make enough to clear its own expenses and to buy its supplies.

Q: What technical assistance did farmers who are members of your cooperative need?

A: The same type of assistance the Extension Service furnishes to farmers, the technical people in Agriculture who keep up and know modern techniques and modern farming. The profits of these people are dependent upon two major factors: One is volume, the other is quality.

The technical staff consists of a manager whose function is to manage the program in all of its aspects,

to actually maintain the program to see that the orders of the board of directors are carried out, to see that the staff—the other staff people—are functioning in their respective positions—just general—even to sweep the floor, sometimes.

Q. This is you?

A: This is me. The next person on the staff, I guess, in line would be a horticulturist, the man who describes for the farmer the methods that he should follow, the fertilizers that he should use; who oversees the taking of soil tests, the products that he should plant to make a profit, the insecticide program—all of these functions.

Under him are ten field specialists—one for every county. These also are degreed agricultural people who carry out the direct orders of the horticulturist in assisting the farmer and taking soil tests, in distributing fertilizers, taking surveys within the community to see which seed to plant, how much of what product, to help him to oversee it during its cultivation stage, and also to help him at the harvest time in the right procedures for gathering and getting his products to market.

The next person in line is the marketing specialist and his single job is to see that the products that are recommended by the horticulturist are marketable at a profit; to make contacts through the country to see where he can get the best markets for the farmer's products. Also, to arrange transportation, if necessary; to arrange for the purchasing of the containers or the baskets that are necessary to package the products in; and also to assist the horticulturist in determining which insects are most damaging and what recommendations can be made to limit the amount of insect attacks.

Q: The horticulturist, then, helps the farmer get the best product available, or the best product he can come up with on his land. The marketing specialist then has the responsibility for selling that product?

A: True.

Q: As quickly as possible?

A: True. They work together.

Q: Now, what's next in this organization?

A: Then we have an assistant manager who assists the manager in his duties. The controller, three secretaries, three clerk-typists and finance personnel. And that about wraps it up.

Q: You mentioned a board of directors. Would you like to explain what a cooperative board of directors does? Are they all farmers? Are they members of the general community?

A: The board of directors comprises two men from each county. Both farmers. The chairman of each county committee, each county chapter is automatically on the board of directors—an alternate from each county is also on the board of directors.

The board of directors functions just like a board of directors on any other—in any other business. It sets policies for the general operations of the co-op. It has to do with the hiring and firing of staff. It sets the directions as to what the policies of the entire program would be.

The board of directors is now mainly concerned with the production problems and the planting season ahead for 1968. The problem of finding the money to buy fertilizer and seeds, which is going to run into estimated $150,000.

Q: As compared to the first time—

A: The first time around we were able to raise about $60,000 for this purpose.

Q: Why the increase?

A: The increase is mainly based upon the fact that SWAFCA has sort of proven itself in the area. The membership who has started with SWAFCA is going to raise its—according to the survey that is coming in now—all of the members are raising their acreage for truck farms, plus the fact that we anticipate an increase about mid-February or the 1st of March, which is just the beginning of the planting season.

Q: You said originally about a thousand farmers were involved. What's the present membership?

A: Around 1150. We anticipate possibly 1700 members by March.

Q: In reviewing your staffing procedure, do you have low-income farmers acting as aides to SWAFCA? Are they on salary to the cooperative?

A: Yes. We have, in conjunction with staff, what we call liaison workers who are farm workers who will work with the trained staff, and these farmers will work in a training capacity. They are getting on-the-job training, while the work is actually going on.

Q: Now, who pays for this—the cooperative itself?

A: No, this is in the budget of OEO. You pay the expenses of these farm liaison workers. Presently we have about six. Also, the position of the assistant manager. In the proposal it is requested that this person be a farm man, and that his job is a trainee job in this position that he holds as assistant manager. In fact, all of the staff positions call for, in as many instances as possible, that the preference to these jobs be given primarily to farmers.

Q: Low-income farmers?

A: Low-income farmers.

Q: People in the specific communities.

A: Right.

Q: I'd also like to know if the Department of Agriculture is, at this point, if they weren't in the beginning, helping you any?

A: Yes, since the visit to our area by Secretary of Agriculture Freeman in, oh, I believe early August. He came especially to see the area of Southwest Alabama, with his vast farming problems there. And we were fortunate enough to be invited, the president of the board, Mr. Johnson and myself, to join Mr. Freeman's party at Vineland, Alabama—about 60 miles from Selma. He very patiently listened to use for about 60 miles on a return trip from Vineland to Selma, and very interestingly did he listen.

Q: What did he do?

A: Well, we had asked for a liaison from the Department on the national level to work with us. This was done. He also sent down to us, in about two weeks' time, a representative from the Ag Department —the Farmers Cooperative Services of the Ag Department—Mr. Carl Dietermeyer, who stayed in our area about two weeks with us at the first visit. And he also remained with us—has come back to us several times to help us with problems and has opened up the Department of Agriculture on the State and local level for us.

Q: Has Mr. Freeman sent you any money?

A: No money.

Q: No money at all? Do you expect any money from the Department of Agriculture?

A: We are hoping, since OEO and the FHA have a program now that will make loans to small cooperatives, we are hoping that we will possibly be able to arrange a loan with FHA to help us in the 1968 operations.

Q: What does FHA stand for in this instance, Mr. Orsborn.

A: FHA is the agency within the Department of Agriculture called the Farmers Home Administration, and its purpose is primarily to make loans to farmers to help small farmers—well, all farmers, really, in making financial arrangements to carry out farm operations.

Q: In the past you were unable to avail yourself of this service. Now that you're a cooperative and in operation, you think the Department of Agriculture will come through in this area?

A: Yes. The loan for cooperatives has just been arranged recently; through the Economic Opportunity Act, the Farmers Home Administration now makes loans to certain kinds of cooperatives in which at least two-thirds of the members and people have limited assets and low incomes.

Q: Now, let's go back to just plain old cooperative economics. You have to prepare for harvest. You have to have facilities for storage. You've got your cooperative, you've got your farmers spread out through these ten counties.

A: The purpose of SWAFCA itself is to be an agent for small farmers, where we can purchase in bulk, in volume. This year we were able to purchase some $60,000 worth of fertilizers, seeds, and insecticides. And it's estimated that we saved the farmers—the small farmer—by buying in volume, at least $2 a ton on supply that he used this year.

Q: You purchased fertilizer, which is prerequisite to any farming that's going to be done during the year, and you saved the poor farmer certain money. The

cooperative did this for its members. Now, you've got this fertilizer. How do you get it to the ten counties? Tell us city people these very practical things.

A: A cotton gin we operate for the family business has been loaned to the cooperative as a distribution center, for fertilizers, and seeds, It is also the center of receiving the products from the farm.

Q: Now, are there any farmers who couldn't get into the center for their fertilizer?

A: This is true. We also make arrangement to haul fertilizers and seeds and any type of supplies out to the other ten counties. We intend in '68 to have substations, at least one in every county, as a distribution center for the farmers.

Q: Okay. Substations will be set up for fertilizer distribution. That's the first part of the yearly farm process. The horticulturalist and his staff see that the crops are planted and tended to as efficiently as possible. Then, harvest time for the particular crops? At which time the farmers—I'm interpreting what you said already—the farmers bring their goods to your center, the marketing agent has found the markets; it's shipped out. Is it refrigerated? How does it go? Where does it go?

A: They are shipped in refrigerated trucks—most of the vegetables. They are highly perishable, and your market contacts have to be sound, and your transportation arrangements have to be made solidly so that you don't run the risk of spoilage.

Q: Now, in the development of SWAFCA, who didn't like you? I know some folks. You tell me.

A: In the initial hassle that was created by the idea of SWAFCA being established and organized, the local power structure in the area was bitterly opposed to the idea of small farmers grouping themselves together to make themselves in a position to be able to compete with established enterprises.

Q: How strong did this resistance get to be?

A: The resistance was quite strong. It started at the local level and it gathered strength all the way to the Governor's office.

Q: How did you "hang in there," as they say? What help did you get? Did you need outside help?

A: We had outside help, sure. The Justice Department; the Cooperative League; we had help from the Sharecroppers' organization. We had help from OEO itself.

Q: Were any of your cooperative members ever intimidated or threatened?

A: Yes, we had members intimidated and threatened. We had pickle trucks stopped on the road and allowed to spoil. We had drivers—local drivers—who were hired to haul pickles to cut off the refrigerating units en route to market, so that they arrived in a spoiled condition.

Q: With all this resistance, I guess the members began to think they had a strong idea going for them?

A: They did. I think this gave momentum to the membership's morale. They evidently considered the fact that if SWAFCA caused such a howl, then it surely must have been good for them.

Q: Has this sort of resistance died down?

A: On the surface, it has. We are hoping that the relationships within the community can be repaired, the image that the politics brought into the fight, we are hoping that we can eradicate this image by showing and being able to succeed and actually do what we set forth to do.

Q: All right. Mr. Orsborn, say I'm a poor farmer in Southwest Alabama, and I want to join SWAFCA. What would I do?

A: Be a poor farmer and borrow a dollar from somebody, and you can join.

Q: For your dollar, what do you get?

A: You get the services of the organization office.

Q: And these dollar memberships—where does that money go?

A: The dollar memberships are all placed into general operating funds.

Q: Do you have anything like trust funds envisioned, investment funds?

A: Not at the present time. That's going to take a while.

Q: In terms of pounds of produce, in your first year of operation, how much produce has the cooperative put on the market?

A: We have marketed over a million pounds of produce since June 7 of this year. In money it amounted to some $52,000 for the farmers.

Q: $52,000. Through their own efforts what do you think this would have been—without the help of SWAFCA, the same million pounds, if the farmers there just were putting it out on their own?

A: Without SWAFCA's help, or without the SWAFCA program, the poundage would never have been planted in the first place.

Q: So this was a pretty dumb question to ask? Forgive me.

Because of the nature of the many problems that Southwest Alabama has sustained—poverty, politics, and certain racial considerations, if you had this to do all over again, would you do it the same way?

A: I certainly would. This has been one of the most gratifying experiences of my life. It's been stimulating all the way. And it is showing that the people in our community, the poor farmer who has been disinherited for so long, is now ready and willing to stand up for himself and ask that help be given him, not for the sake of help, but help to help him to help himself. The idea of handouts which have demeaned the low-income people for so long, which has robbed them of their manhood, is now showing itself to be not the way to help poverty-stricken people.

Q: Nationally, people who do know SWAFCA tend to think of it as a black farmers cooperative. Do you have any white farmers in your cooperative?

A: We have several white farmers who are in our organization.

Q: Do you think this will be an increasing part of your membership?

A: We hope it will. But the membership is not closed at all. We have marketed for non-members, for white non-members in the area, products that we raised, that they have raised. And we do hope that in the future some of them will see fit to join the organization.

Q: Does SWAFCA have plans for improving the living facilities of the low-income farmer, through housing cooperatives and loans?

A: We hope to be instrumental in raising the low-income farmer's level up to the point where he will be qualified to make individual FHA loans.

We hope to be instrumental in getting information out to small farmers that will help them in knowing how to go about getting loans for housing.

We also may be instrumental in acquiring direct loans ourselves as an organization, to finance housing for the members.

Q: In the South—the Deep South particularly—the Northern cities have been filling up for years with low-income farmers and their families who just haven't been able to make a living. Do you think that an organization like SWAFCA might stem this tide of migration from the rural areas to the cities?

A: This is one of SWAFCA's basic purposes. In our area we find that on the farms there's now a gap in the age level of farm families. You find these families consisting of the youngsters up to about the age of 16 or 17, and then a wide gap between 17 and 60 years of age. Now, this is the productive element of people, who leave the farm, basically because the farm does not offer opportunity to make a living for themselves. And when people are unskilled and untrained and they leave farms and go to the urban areas, they —we see it—they create problems even worse than the ones that they left.

Q. In your experience thus far, have you found, when you show farm families that there is a living to be made, using such organizations as SWAFCA, that the tendency would be not to migrate?

A: We think so.

Q: You have a good argument for this belief?

A: We have a good argument if the farmers themselves participate fully in the SWAFCA program, and their income is raised, we see a decrease in the migration of farm families to the urban areas.

Q: Do you think you'll be able to keep young people who just may be plain bored with rural life in your area?

A: We think so. Because the boredom is there because of the activities being so limited on the farms. If there's enough inducement by SWAFCA and SWAFCA's activities to keep the farm active and productive and the income level is raised, young people will surely stay there.

Q: Does SWAFCA think in terms of anything else besides farming, in the future—say, small industry relating, say, to farming?

A: SWAFCA has in its proposal, it has been approved—a phase II of this project which deals with industrial development. We are beginning to attempt to acquire staff to get this program under way—some related industry that will give employment to farm people in idle seasons, which is closely related to the production of the farm program.

Q: So as you see it, SWAFCA can be the major force in the economic development of Southwest Alabama, despite the resistance that you've met thus far?

A: This is our determination.

Q: Would you care to project on how long it would be before SWAFCA won't need the government, won't need anybody except the farmers themselves? Five years?

A: I would surely say that it would take five years to get SWAFCA on its feet where it can operate on its own.

Q: Would your determination be to get rid of all government help as soon as possible?

A: Certainly not. We think that the government agencies can contribute much to a program like ours. We think that the government agencies can use us sort of as a leg or as a means to tie in people that can't really be reached by the agencies. We've had this problem already in dealing with Extension workers, where Extension is so understaffed, we feel that Extension can use SWAFCA to reach small farmers, several hundred at one time, rather than this door-by-door procedure that they have to do when there is no organization.

Q: Are there any social or recreational activities involved with SWAFCA?

A: Not at the present time. There are no recreational or social activities involved. We are concentrating on building the program and these types of activities will surely be left to the county organizations. We think that this will be wholesome, that there should be social and recreational activities involved. It would also help to stimulate the youth use of the association with the program. But at the present time, as a general policy, there are no programs involved.

Q: Mr. Orsborn, if SWAFCA is able to generate high levels of income for low-income farmers, wouldn't this in effect be a blessing, as far as your area is concerned, and why would anybody really want to fight the improvement of farm families?

A: The idea of low-income farmers moving for themselves, being in the position to handle their own finances and their own organization, is a totally new concept in the area of Southwest Alabama.

There has been a carryover through the years in our area of the farm-master relationship, the tenant-farmer relationship, where the control of all the economic avenues have remained in the hands of the fortunate few. And the low-income farmers have always had to be dependent upon the merchant or landlord for his subsistance.

Now, the change of this—anything that changes the status quo, that affects the livelihood of individuals, will create a furor. And this is the reason the hassle has been raised in Southwest Alabama.

Q: You think, however, that the climate will change gradually to acceptance of SWAFCA? It wouldn't seem that anybody would have a choice at this point?

A: I've seen signs of it, ever since SWAFCA began to operate. People who do know that in a farming community and in an area that—its living is based on farm people, that if farm people can get more money to spend and put into circulation in the community, then they themselves will also prosper: the shoe salesman, insurance man, the corner groceryman—they all will prosper if the farmer prospers.

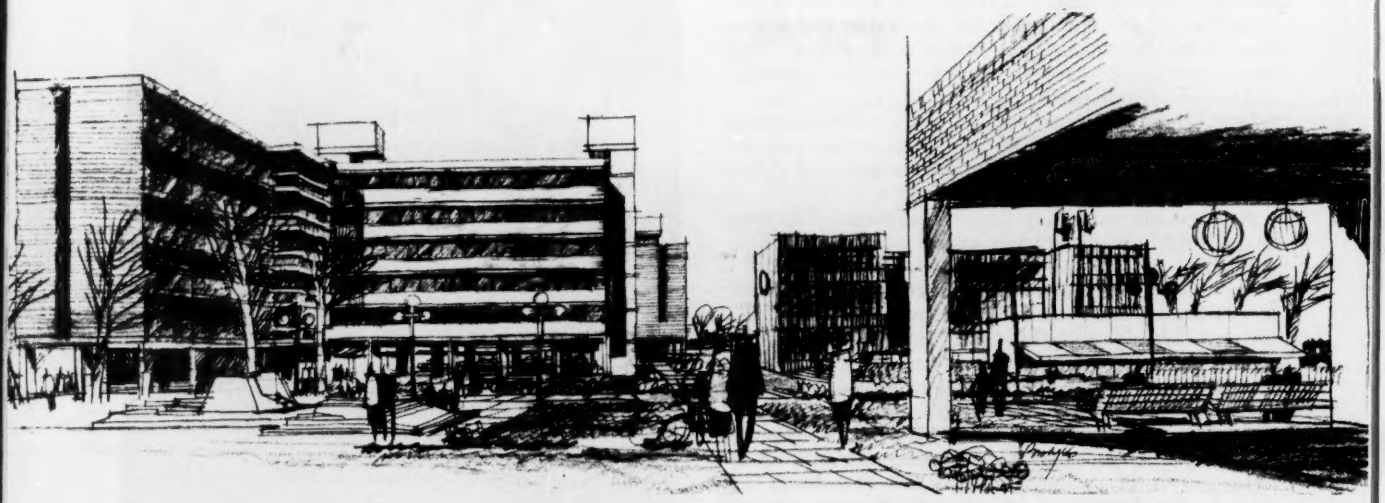
Q: So if SWAFCA grows, then you're saying that all the citizens of Southwest Alabama will grow and maybe some who have traditionally made a little more on the low-income farmers than they should have—might feel hurt—the greatest number of people would have some benefits.

A: The greatest number would be served.

Interview by RALPH MATTHEWS, with the cooperation of SHAMI LUBIN and PICK TEMPLE, OEO - Public Affairs.

Harlem's "ARCH"

Young architects team with low-income families to change upper Manhattan neighborhoods



A major aim of the antipoverty program, that of securing the services of the professions, legal and medical—assumed a new direction in Harlem last summer.

Another vital profession—architecture—is lending its practitioners to that part of New York City in the form of ARCH, Architects Renewal Committee in Harlem.

"What ARCH tries to do," said Max Bond, 38-year-old architect and executive director, "is give people the professional planning help they need if they are going to effectively confront the public agencies that make decisions affecting their neighborhoods."

Three architects (including Bond), one city planner (ARCH will soon gain another) and two lawyers (one a Volunteer in Service to America) constitute the group that was awarded a $97,000 Section 207 Research and Demonstration grant by the OEO so that sprawling urban renewal plans could reflect the residents' aims and ideas on their neighborhood's renovation, and so that housing code violations and other punches that bruise the disadvantaged could be alleviated.

ARCH has previously received support from the American Institute of Architects and several foundations. It has about 30 architects and planners and 20 lawyers who do volunteer work regularly. The Housing Division of CAP hopes the organization's work will prove an acceptable model for developing similar programs in other cities as component programs of community action agencies.

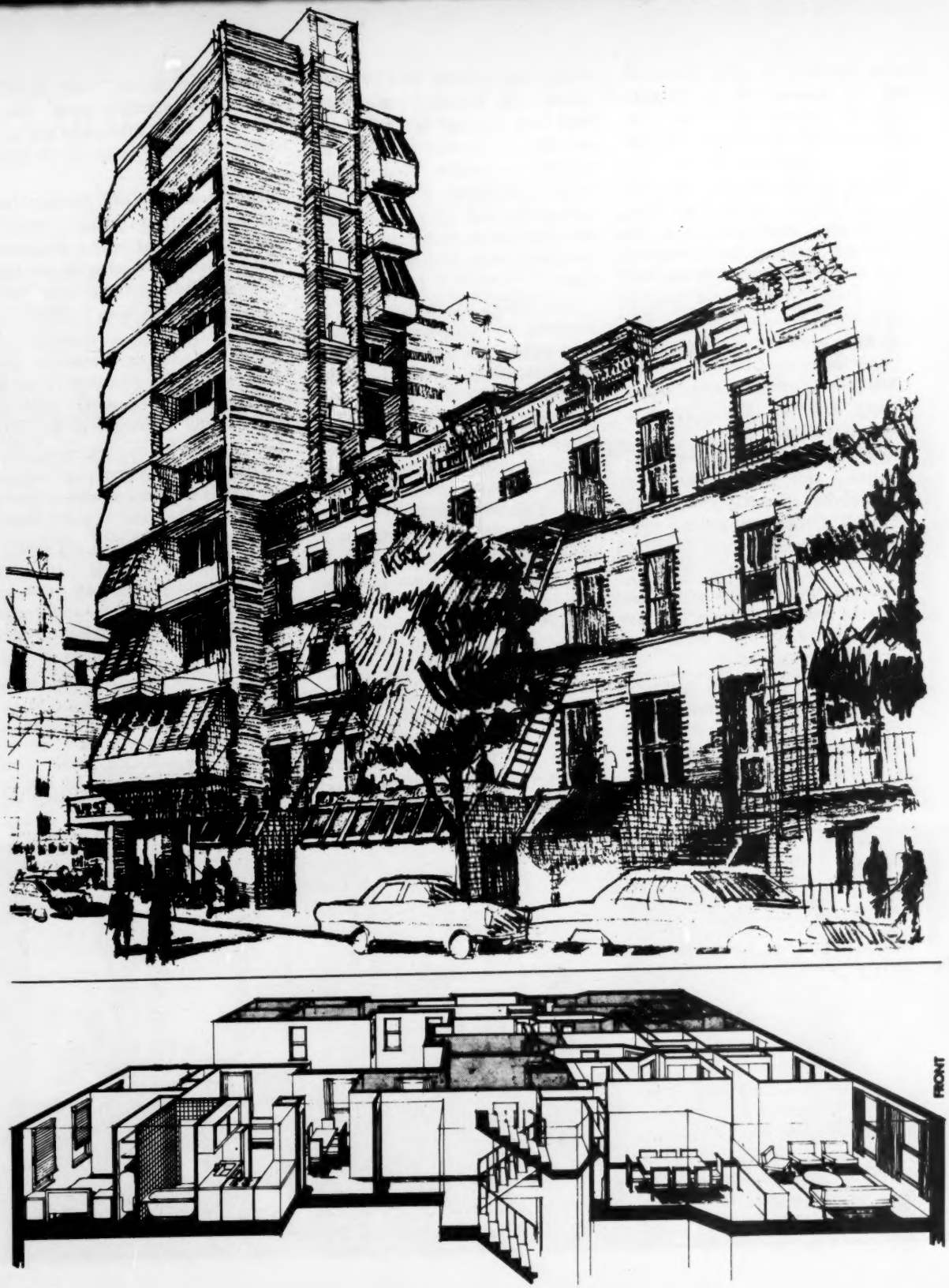
In late summer, the group submitted a "people's plan" to the city's housing and redevelopment administrator, as the basis for an application for urban renewal funds, for the East Harlem Triangle, a bleak 14-block area of industrial buildings and tenements between 125th Street and Park Avenue and the Harlem River.

"Even though the renewal contract for the Triangle is from the City of New York," Bond explained, "the Triangle community association is our client in that we're responsible as advisers to it and the residents. All of our consultants' work is coordinated through the Triangle group."

The 1960 housing census declared that 82 per cent of the housing units in the triangle are deteriorating or dilapidated, and 20 percent of the buildings are vacant. About two-thirds of the families there are on welfare.

ARCH worked on the plan with the Community Association of the East Harlem Triangle, a neighborhood group that was organized to halt a city proposal levied in 1964 to use the entire area for light industry.

The two groups designed a pro-


FRONT

posal featuring a small industrial park to provide jobs for triangle residents and new low-income and middle-income housing. The triangle has good transportation—the Triborough Bridge empties into the area and there is a New York Central Railroad Station at 125 th St. —and the plan proposes developing these as a way of attracting business and industry. They would build a bus terminal at the end of the bridge and parking garages in other places.

Why were Harlem residents, normally wary of so-called social action groups, attracted to ARCH as a community tool?

"ARCH is thoroughly community-oriented," said Bond. Besides its work in urban renewal plans, ARCH performs immediate action legal services for tenants abused by housing code violations. ARCH has a monthly newspaper written by the residents and edited by a VISTA worker that encourages their participation and interest.

The ARCH board of directors contains some professionals as well as residents representative of the poor. The ARCH publications, such as "Tenant Action Handbook" and "Government Programs for Community Improvement" and "Welfare Action" and "Harlem Planning Fact Book" are designed not to impress outsiders but to brief and motivate the Harlem reader. And, finally, ARCH employees attend various community and church meetings, thus maintaining community ties and remaining aware of current developments.

But ARCH didn't stop there. It instituted an impressive—yet beneficial public relations concept that would pay off for ARCH, for future groups designed like ARCH, and for young persons with architectural aspirations and talents: high school graduates who would normally be denied admission to Cooper Union, New York's well-known architectural and design school, because of some lack of training required by CU, and high school non-graduates with drafting talents, were invited to work voluntarily for ARCH in a special program run by CU.

If they showed promise in their service to the Harlem group, they could gain admission to Cooper Union.

Has ARCH ever strained relations between itself and New York planners and officials? "Naturally, relations are varied," said Bond, "but they're generally good. They learn from our publications and activities and there is an air of mutual respect."

Bond said that city planners on the East Harlem Triangle project are learning what urban designers nationwide are learning about the renewal revolution: the term "urban planning" has been redefined to include factors that must be studied before one line is drawn on the drafting table.

There is the "concept plan"—necessitating the sifting of the myriad of hopes for redevelopment; the "population prediction plan"—how the area is growing, moving, shrinking (and in this case, how will riverfront development affect population growth?); the "financing plan;" the "traffic study plan"—how renewal affects the traffic pattern. And so on.

ARCH is representative of the growing need for architectural and urban renewal aid—as a profession equally as vital to the poor as its brothers, the legal and medical fields.

DICK GRANAT,
Director, OEO Housing Programs

Correspondence

Sir:

The article written by Mrs. Patricia Fox in your last issue is superb. We feel Mrs. Fox did an extremely good job with both the content and arrangement.

Using her article as a base, and the OEO-Pitt program as the illustration of what can be done, we are currently proposing to the new head of the Allegheny Conference (the voluntary policy-making group of economic and political leaders in the Pittsburgh region) that the city and county use the University's resources in a similarly constructive way to overcome the problems facing all inner cities. Specifically, we feel that real headway is made by affording persons on the verge of overt expression and destructive behavior a constructive way in which to channel their energies i.e. through both acquiring techniques and skills needed in bringing about change to their communities, as well as building a power base to their organizations. This was precisely the purpose of the OEO-Pitt program. It should be duplicated many times over. It is our intention to help the poor in this way to mobilize their resources in this responsible, and in the long run, all-powerful way.

Donald C. Stone, Dean
Graduate School of Public
and International Affairs
University of Pittsburgh

Sir:

Your last issue of *Communities in Action* telling the MFY story is, in my judgment, first-rate journalism. I have rarely seen a publication of this sort with as much honesty and tactile excitement.

Val Coleman
Public Relations Director
Mobilization for Youth, Inc.
New York, N.Y.

Sir:

Phillip Hardberger's article "The Moral War" in the October-November 1967 *Communities in Action* . . . touched my heart, echoing my sentiments on this great war. As a CAA executive director, I face this realism daily and obtain a heavy heart when local politics begin to play such a vast part in these programs.

How true it is if every American would turn his indifference forward to a realistic approach and upon examining himself find that he is truly his neighbor's keeper.

I have distributed this article to the many businessmen, politicians and the news media for certainly it is most apropos for this hour.

Frank A. Rincon Jr.
Executive Director
Madera County Action
Committee, Inc.
Madera, California

Sir:

"The Moral War" is one of the best that I have read. Phillip Hardberger does an excellent job with sensitive issues and leaves no doubt that it is every man's responsibility to care for his brother.

Charles H. Holloway
Executive Director
Kaskaskia Community
Action Programs
Centralia, Illinois

Sir:

My compliments to Mr. Hardberger for a very fine article.

As a mere suggestion, however, for the improvement (of your magazine) why don't you see about having a short biographical sketch of the writer of articles. Don't you agree that a little information about the person who writes things we like, makes it just a little more personal and interesting. I know that space is valuable, but maybe you can print a little smaller and still have the same space.

John M. Holladay, Attorney
Camden, Tennessee

Sir:

I am a student at the University of Illinois, and I work with a service organization, Volunteer Illini Projects (VIP). I am in the group that operates a neighborhood study center in the Negro ghetto. A few weeks ago, I happened to see one of your Community Action magazines, which had in it a few pages of posters.

These posters were designed to push the Negro to action in his community, and they were in language that he is familiar with. I wonder if you might have any more of these posters for use in our project. It seems that they would be quite good for our purposes.

Betsy Buick
Urbana, Ill.

NEXT ISSUE

VERMONT JOURNAL
Community action in northern New England

MOUNTAIN TALK
Interviews with CAP workers and the people they serve in West Virginia

OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY
OFFICIAL BUSINESS

PRINTED MATTER

POSTAGE AND FEES PAID
OFFICE OF ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITY

* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE 1968 O 305-854/3